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PATENT SPECIFICATION 933,078

DRAWINGS ATTACHED.

Inventors:—PAUL PETER MARCHINI and TINO BATTISTA GUISEPPE RINALDI

933,078

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements relating to Vehicle Interior Mirrors.

We, PLASTMANT LIMITED, a British Company, of Neville House, Hayley Road, Birmingham 16, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to vehicle interior mirrors, and has for its object to provide an improved mirror structure capable of fulfilling a number of functions in the interior of a motor vehicle, which functions are normally fulfilled by separate devices.

In accordance with the invention, a vehicle interior mirror assembly comprises a body provided on one side with a mirror proper and a lamp having a lens extending along the length of the mirror, projecting beyond the plane of the mirror, and located above the mirror, and at least one recess, provided on the opposite side of the body to the mirror and lens, adapted to receive an information tablet visible only from said opposite side of the body.

For example, the information tablet may be a vehicle licence, a motoring organisation badge, or a carrier's licence, or any two or more of these.

Preferably the lamp is wired and switched for independent operation, in which case the mirror may act as a reflector, for example in map reading by lamp-light, and for operation as a courtesy light, that is, for illumination when the vehicle side and tail lamps are on and a vehicle door is opened. Moreover, a subsidiary lamp may be provided for permanent illumination of the information tablet whenever said side and tail lamps are lit.

One preferred embodiment of the invention is described by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of an interior mirror, with parts broken away to illustrate other parts.

Figure 2 is a rear elevation of the mirror, and

Figure 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

The mirror shown in the drawings comprises a body 10, which may conveniently be fabricated as a moulding in a synthetic resinous material such as polypropylene. The body is provided with a pair of circular tablet-receiving recesses 11, 12 on one face, and with two rectangular recesses 13, 14, bounded by raised walls 15 on its opposite face.

Each of the circular recesses 11, 12 is provided with a glass or other transparent material disc 18, which is retained in place by an inturned rim 16 and which, due to the resilience and flexibility of the material, and also due to slots or interruptions 17 (Figure 2) in the rim, can be deformed to allow the discs to be removed from the body to enable road-fund vehicle licences, carriers' licences and the like to be inserted in the recesses.

The larger rectangular recess 13 houses a mirror proper 19, which may also be retained in place by a rim of the material of the body sprung over the margin of the mirror.

The smaller rectangular recess 14, which is located above the mirror recess when the mirror is arranged as shown in the drawings, accommodates a lamp shade or lens 20, of translucent material, for example, ribbed clear glass, or opal finish plastics material. The lens is semi-circular in cross

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section and has a peripheral flange which is detained in the recess by a rim of the body in the same manner as the mirror and the discs 18.

Extending along the recess 14 is a lamp bulb 21 of the tubular type, associated with contacts 22 (of which only one is shown), wiring 23 and a switch 24. The lamp bulb is approximately midway along the recess.

The recess 14 also houses a second lamp bulb which is mounted in a holder 25 and located in a hole opening through the body from recess 14 to one of the circular recesses e.g. 12. Moreover the hole is inclined towards the centre of recess 12. The second lamp bulb is also wired in circuit with the switch, and the wiring passes from the back of the body to a mirror supporting bracket arm 26 and along a channel therein so that it is concealed from view.

The arrangement of the wiring and switch may be such that the lamp bulbs may be switched on and off independently by switch 24. Both lamps may be included in the wiring circuits of the vehicle to which the mirror is fitted, so that bulb 21 lights up as a "courtesy light" whenever the side and tail lamps are lit and the vehicle door is open, and the second lamp bulb may be permanently lit when the said side and tail lamps are lit so that the information tablet in recess 12 may be illuminated from behind at a low level.

The body of the mirror is provided with an integral stem 27 which extends normally of the body between the circular recesses; the stem terminates in a ball 28 which is clamped between a pair of plates 29, 30, the second of which is formed integrally with the bracket arm 26. The plates are held together by screws 31 so as to provide a universal ball-joint mounting for the mirror. The bracket arm 26 terminates in a foot 32 provided with screw holes (not shown).

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A vehicle interior mirror assembly comprising a body provided on one side with a mirror proper and a lamp holder having a lens extending along the length of the mirror, projecting beyond the plane of the mirror, and located above the mirror, and at least one recess, provided on the opposite side of the body to the mirror and lens, adapted to receive an information tablet visible only from said opposite side of the body.

2. A mirror as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the body has two circular recesses each for receiving a tablet.

3. A mirror as claimed in Claim 1, or Claim 2, wherein the body is made of a resilient flexible synthetic resin material and the lens is retained in position by a rim on the body.

4. A mirror as claimed in any of Claims 1–3, wherein the information tablet recess or recesses has or have rims adapted to releasably retain said tablet or tablets therein.

5. A mirror as claimed in any preceding claim wherein a second lamp is provided for illuminating the recess or one of the recesses.

6. A mirror, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

GEORGE FUERY & CO.,
Newhall Chambers,
8 Newhall Street,
Birmingham 3.
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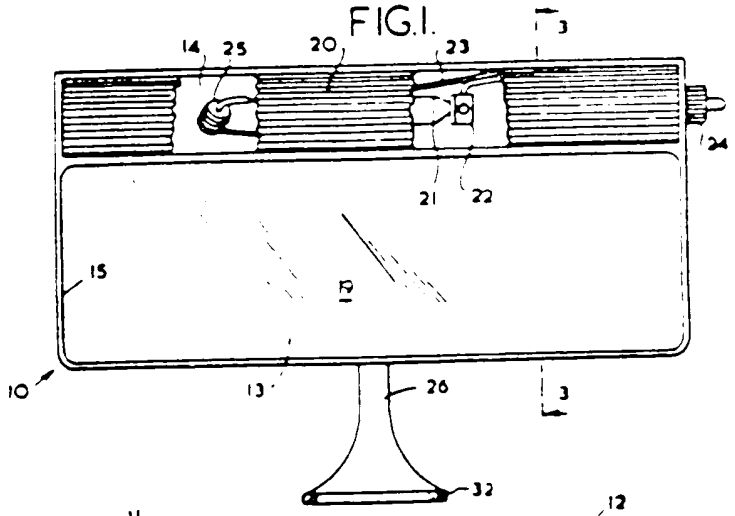
933,078 COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET This drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale

FIG.1.



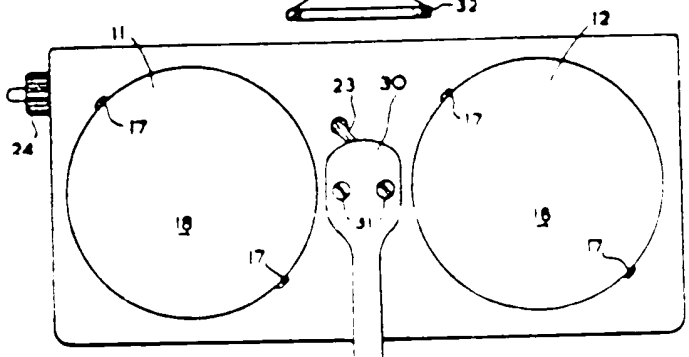


FIG.2.

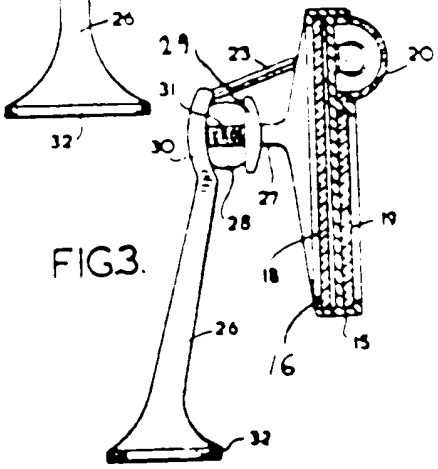


FIG.3.

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